

GeogNews

Sombrio Beach, Vancouver Island

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U Victoria's Trisalyn Nelson leads team developing mapping tools to improve cyclist safety: Did you have a near miss during your morning cycling commute? Then map it on bikemaps.org and your incident will be part of a new University of Victoria project aimed at improving cycling safety. UVic geography professor Dr. Trisalyn Nelson and a team of researchers in the UVic Geography SPAR Lab (spatial pattern and analysis research) are launching a web-map to find hot spots of safe and risky cycling in the Capital Regional District. They are collecting data to conduct geographical information system (GIS) and statistical analysis. Cyclists can record bike crashes, near misses, hazards and thefts in the region. "With only 30 to 40 per cent of cycling accident data captured by traditional data sources, BikeMaps.org represents an important effort to fill data and information gaps", says Nelson. "I love cycling and I commute by bike daily. But, especially as a mom, I am always looking for ways our family can ride as safely as possible." [UVic Media](#) | [Times Colonist](#)

Western Geography professor Gordon McBean heads International Council for Science: Western Geography professor Gordon McBean assumed the role of president of the International Council for Science at the conclusion of the organization's General Assembly last month. McBean is only the second Canadian to take up this office. In his inaugural address, McBean said he was "proud of the role the council has played, and will continue to play, in planning, coordinating and 'making happen' global scale research for the benefits for all societies." He emphasized the council "will continue to provide societies and governments with policy relevant science that can and should form the basis policy making." McBean holds professorships in the Departments of Geography, Political Science and Physics, and is director of policy studies at the university's Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction and co-director of the Centre for Environment and Sustainability. [Western News](#)

Vancouver Island U to offer Master's of Community Planning degree: The Province of BC recently approved a new Master's of Community Planning (MCP) degree for Vancouver Island University. VIU will be the only MCP on Vancouver Island and join UBC and SFU as the three schools offering graduate programs in BC, along with UNBC's undergraduate program. While VIU still needs to complete the Canadian Institute of Planners Professional Standard Board's accreditation process, VIU can now move this program forward. The MCP will focus on small communities, community and urban design, rural/urban interface issues, First Nations planning with an emphasis on the islands and settlements surrounding the Salish Sea, and sustainability issues from economic, social, and environmental perspectives. The program will also have a strong GIS component (VIU has an excellent diploma program in GIS and is working on a graduate-level GIS degree program). Information can be found [on-line](#) or by contacting Pam Shaw PhD MCIP RPP at Pam.Shaw@viu.ca

UBC's Rob Young considers whether the Alberta Badlands changed since the day of the dinosaur: When we drive across the prairies, the trip seems interminable and the landscape unchanging. Seeing statues and depictions of dinosaurs amongst the badlands of southern Alberta, there's a great temptation to think that nothing has changed for a very long time. UBC Assoc. Prof. Rob Young says if that's what you think, then you're wrong. Young, who teaches in the Earth and Environmental Sciences & Physical Geography Unit in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC's Okanagan campus, researches the vast changes the region has experienced since dinosaurs roamed the Earth. Although the landscape suggests the scale of those changes, Young looks at the record of fluvial erosion, along with mammalian fossils incorporated into fluvial deposits, to help decipher the rates of landscape formation. There are indications that nearly a kilometre of sediment has been removed, at a rate that increased over the last several million years, and then slowed over the last two million years. [UBC Media Advisory](#)

U Victoria PhD student Megan Adams on engaging with communities in collaborative scientific research: Local folks are often part of our research teams, teaching us about prevailing weather patterns and sharing ecological insights on the species we were studying. Scientists were supporting communities with their expertise, but the local knowledge and on-the-ground capacity communities shared with the research teams was just as striking. This was science guided by place-based knowledge and local context—science beyond the walls of the academy. In our experience, truly engaging with community partners means collaborating right from the onset of the research process. As academics and community members, we work towards a common research focus, develop research questions and hypotheses, conduct fieldwork with collaborative teams, and are transparent about where, when, and how findings are communicated. Our team articulated our thoughts on ecological research and engagement in a recent publication, but like many things, it is easier to write about than to practice day-to-day. [Union of Concerned Scientists](#)

Western U fourth-year student Shyra Barberstock uses elite program to reclaim past: While discovering her own story, Shyra Barberstock has helped others reclaim theirs. Last month, the fourth-year First Nations Studies and Health/Environmental Geography student returned from the Indigenous Women in Community Leadership program at the Coady International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. The elite program encourages First Nations, Métis and Inuit women to become strong leaders and agents of change capable of contributing in their communities. In operation since 2011, the program culminates with the presentation of a three-month community project where the women work closely with a community of their choosing on developing solutions to pressing problems. Participants are guided and supported through the project by a program mentor. As a trained nutritionist, Barberstock knew exactly where she wanted to focus her efforts. Looking to connect modern people with their traditional diets, the project addressed many of the gaps she identified including stressing the importance of regional, seasonal and even ceremonial foods, all items overlooked in the official guide. [Western News](#)



Western U Professors Belinda Dodson and Tony Weis are Canadian collaborators on a multi-partner SSHRC_IDRC project focused on improving food security in seven cities across Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. Details on the [IDRC website](#).

[@CanGeographers](#) Weekly is out! [Edition of 08 October 2014](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Alexander Brooker, Robert H. Fraser, Ian Olthof, Steve V. Kokelj and Denis Lacelle. 2014. [Mapping the activity and evolution of retrogressive thaw slumps by tasselled cap trend analysis of a Landsat satellite image stack](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. DOI: 10.1002/ppp.1819

Stacey E. Byers and Gail L. Chmura. 2014. [Observations on shallow subsurface hydrology at Bay of Fundy macrotidal salt marshes](#). Journal of Coastal Research 30:1006–1016.

C. Michael Hall, Bas Amelung, Scott Cohen, Eke Eijgelaar, Stefan Gössling, James Higham, Rik Leemans, Paul Peeters, Yael Ram, Daniel Scott, Carlo Aall, Bruno Abegg, Jorge E. Araña, Stewart Barr, Susanne Becken, Ralf Buckley, Peter Burns, Tim Coles and Jackie Dawson. 2014. [Denying bogus skepticism in climate change and tourism research](#). Tourism Management. DOI:10.1016/j.tourman.2014.08.009

Mark Kear. 2014. [The scale effects of financialization: The Fair Credit Reporting Act and the production of financial space and subjects](#). Geoforum 57:99–109.

Blake Byron Walker, Cameron Taylor-Noonan, Alan Tabbernor, T'Brenn McKinnon, Harsimran Bal, Dan Bradley, Nadine Schuurman and John J. Clague. 2014. [A multi-criteria evaluation model of earthquake vulnerability in Victoria, British Columbia](#). Natural Hazards 74:1209-1222.

Robert G. Way, Trevor Bell and Nicholas E. Barrand. 2014. [An inventory and topographic analysis of glaciers in the Torngat Mountains, northern Labrador, Canada](#). Journal of Glaciology 60(223):945-956.

Other “Geographical” News

Brian Maloney presented with Esri Canada’s Roger F. Tomlinson Lifetime Achievement Award: Brian Maloney, a recently retired surveyor and leader in the advancement of geographic information systems, was recently honoured with the *Roger F. Tomlinson Lifetime Achievement Award*. Brian Maloney holds an Honours B.Sc with a specialty in Survey Science from the University of Toronto and is a licensed Ontario Land Surveyor. He began his career with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, progressing from Trainee Survey Engineer to Head of Surveys and Plans and culminating with his appointment as Chief Surveyor. He then moved on to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources where he served as the Director, Geographic Information Branch. At MNR, he implemented several standardized systems for digital collection of parcel information and images including the Ontario Parcel Initiative, Ontario Road Network Initiative, South Western Ontario Orthoimagery Project, and Digital Raster Acquisition Project for the East. Throughout his career, Brian was an active member of many professional associations and notably, held positions as president of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors, chairman of Eastern Regional Group of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors and Engineering Technology Advisory Committee of St. Lawrence College and director of the Toronto Branch of the Canadian Institute of Surveying and Mapping. Presented at the Esri Canada User Conference in Toronto, the award recognizes an individual for their outstanding achievement and contribution to the GIS community during their career. The Lifetime Achievement Award was created as a tribute to Dr. Roger F. Tomlinson O.C., a visionary geographer who conceived and developed the first GIS and became known as the ‘father of GIS’. Presented at the Esri Canada User Conference in Toronto, the award recognizes an individual for their outstanding achievement and contribution to the GIS community during their career. [Directions Magazine](#)

Google Maps features more Canadian landmarks: Google Maps is giving Canadians a chance to see even more of the Great White North's spectacular landmarks than they could before. The search engine announced that it is featuring virtual tours of over 50 new locations on its popular web mapping service, allowing users to see places such as Hopewell Rocks in New Brunswick and Pacific Rim National Park in B.C. up close, in spectacular photos. [The Huffington Post](#)

Tips to boost response rates for online student evaluations: More Canadian universities are moving to online student evaluations, which unfortunately produce lower response rates. Students either don't care to fill them out, don't understand their purpose, or just plain forget. What they don't usually realize is that these evaluations are used to hire and fire sessional instructors and can also be used for tenure and promotion consideration. Rather than continue to resist and dismiss the usefulness of student evaluations, professors might benefit from a change of attitude and approach. What if we could actually get a larger amount of useful feedback from students? [University Affairs](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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